

Fresno Police Department

Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

August 28, 2008

Present: Roz Clark, Tom Gentile, Harry Gill, Austin Pettigrew (for Luke Raughley), Morgan Doizaki, Jim Poptanich, Rebeca Rangel

Absent: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Kelly Nelum, Paula Farris, H. Spees, Jimmy Bosquez, Debra Odom, Michael Roth, Gordon Donoho, Jan Sangster, Jesse McDonald, Carol Mills, Enrique Reade, David Tittle, Mui Vuong

Guests: Lieutenant Dennis Montejano, Sergeant Brian Rogers, Staff Assistant Lissa Parker.

Call to Order: The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Training Room, was called to order at 5:40 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from July 31, 2008 were approved without corrections

Opening Remarks:

None

Agenda Items:

MEETINGS

Issues: 1) The November meeting is scheduled for Thanksgiving, 2) The December meeting is scheduled for Christmas, 3) Monthly meetings may be too frequent, leading to decreased productivity and enthusiasm.

Solution: The Chief's Advisory Board will meet on the following 2008-2009 dates:

- September 25, 2008
- November 20, 2008
- January 29, 2009
- March 26, 2009
- May 28, 2009
- July 30, 2009
- September 24, 2009
- November 19, 2009

Special meetings will be called if needed.

RELEASE OF JAIL PRISONERS: CITY'S RESPONSE

Chief Dyer: I have a serious concern about 860 inmates being released from jail. Citizens of Fresno and the Police Department are in the middle of this. We already know that over the last year the prison population decreased for budgetary reasons, people not staying in jail or not getting charged. It's no wonder our vehicle burglaries and those sorts of crimes are going up and up. We arrest people who have stolen multiple cars and had them not filed on. We've caught suspects with stolen property in their possession and an eye witness and had no charges filed. Then they just do it again. Then the officials are asking me: why is crime going up?

The people now being released are those who've committed the burglaries, thefts, etc. It will undoubtedly impact the City in just the way you'd think. Right now, we don't even book misdemeanors, so everyone who's in the jail [serving a sentence] is a felon; they are not low-level offenders.

Someone suggested a booking fee. Meaning we would pay a fee to the County every time we have someone booked. We had booking fees until we negotiated with the State to cover the amount of those booking fees. There's a lot of money in taxes that goes to the State; just a few pennies come back to the local government. Not one penny of State income tax comes back to the city. We do pay our fair share as citizens of Fresno. It just goes through the state and doesn't come back to us.

Fresno Police Department

Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

Rangel: The people who get arrested should pay the booking fees.

Chief Dyer: The city taxes that goes to the state goes back to the county. Spending is out of control.

Rangel: The PIO's should start tracking the increase in crime the day the release happens.

Chief Dyer: We will definitely be tracking it. I try to get our people to make sure the DA is aware of those people we know are committing repeated crimes. Right now, it's an effort to get into jail.

I have offered to lend assistance and help come up with creative solutions that can enhance revenue, things like GPS house arrest—if the arrestee chooses house arrest, they pay for the monitoring.

Ballot Initiatives 5 and 6

Chief Dyer: Prop 6: The Safe Neighborhoods Act may provide money to the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney and other law enforcement. If it passes, it will be a good thing for California law enforcement. Prop 5: The Non-violent offender rehabilitation act takes away any sanctions for people arrested for crimes who claim to have an addiction to drugs. You can't really expect rehabilitation to be successful without some consequence. This is a bad proposition.

Rumble in the Park

Chief Dyer: Feedback?

Clark: I heard two things: people didn't want it at all and people didn't like where it was. It was too close to the Shakespeare event. They wondered why our Chief and our Mayor and a high profile pastor end up at something like this. They may have violated the land use contract. There was alcohol there. This kind of thing sends a horrible message that fighting is okay.

Rangel: Just because it isn't some peoples' taste in entertainment... Woodward Park isn't sacred; it's a public park. It needs to be allowed to continue.

Chief Dyer: I had 18 officers there. I almost didn't go, but felt the need to be there. You can't get a first-hand perspective without seeing it. I told promoters I was fearful that there would be a lot of gang members there, but there really weren't any. I don't think the event was bad. I don't think the location was ideal. Ultimately, it was a safe event. Our helicopter got criticized for being there. But we fly over the park every weekend due to the vehicle burg problem.

Doizaki: There's a lot of public interest in MMA. Woodward Park maybe not the best venue. A lot of places would benefit from it. They should do it in Chinatown; we would welcome it.

Chief Dyer: There were 4000 people in attendance; they turned away 1500. The promoters were the only ones who benefitted from it. If they want to do it again, I would say: now the city is going to get a percentage of everything you sell. Every cent we make would go back into Woodward Park, toward beautification of the park.

ROUND TABLE:

Clark: Are there new boundaries for the policing districts?

Chief Dyer: There will be a few changes taking place in January. Have to move some boundaries because things get out of balance, as far as geography, population and number of calls for service. The changes will mostly impact Central and Southwest. I will see to it that the District Commanders are in charge of the rollout for each district.

Clark: Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life I partnering with Glory Bound for its annual Block Party on Saturday. They want to be able to reach the homeless population.

Rangel: We want to invite everyone to the meeting about the Mental Health Services Act prevention and intervention [on September 8th at 3pm at the Holiday Inn on E. Clinton].

There was a big article about bar owners and security.

Chief Dyer: That all started with Club M. The club had not been a policing problem; we didn't offer contract policing and they didn't need it. Some complaints went to code enforcement and reps from ABC, police, fire and code enforcement went out to inspect them. They found the conversion of the

Fresno Police Department

Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

kitchen to a bar. The Club had a restaurant permit. Structural modifications included electrical wires hanging from fire sprinklers. The owner showed up and ordered everyone out. He received notice of intent to revoke his dance permit. We were the hammer for that. We are now being accused of taking business away from the local security company.

There are 133 vendors who contract with us for policing. Calls for service have dropped way down since implementing this. Others have said that we've forced them to hire police officers. Want to change perception and have another city department serve notices to business owners for violations, rather than the PD, to keep our roles distinct.

Doizaki: Expect an increase in calls for service due to security issues at the parking lots. August 31st is last day for security.

Chief Dyer: We will have to come up with a plan from a district standpoint. You should speak with Captain Maroney so we can head off any problems.

Doizaki: Also, the Chinatown Music and Arts Festival will be on Saturday, September 20th at the new Fire Department HQ.

Closing Remarks:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Next Meeting:

September 25, 2008